



Tis the Season...to break into **your vehicle**

By Chief Warrant Officer Paul D. Arthur
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USAG Vicenza DPTMS
Special to the Outlook

This year there has been an increase in Soldiers and dependents in the Vicenza and Livorno military communities who have been reported as victims of theft.

Now, as people are beginning to shop for the holidays, thieves are beginning to “shop” for vehicles that offer “gifts.”

A majority of the incidents of larceny have involved the loss of government and private documents and equipment from military and civilian vehicles. Government laptops, military identification cards, gas coupons, official (red) passports, tourist (blue) passports, SETAF and civilian driver licenses, and various banking documents, to include credit and debit cards are just some of the items stolen from vehicles.

Did you know your military ID has all the information a thief needs in order to steal your identity?

Your personal documentation (military ID cards, SETAF driver's license, stateside driver's licenses, passports, social security cards, etc.) not only carry a large price when it comes to identity theft, but these items are also worth a monetary value to terrorists.

When you make it easy for a criminal to steal your ID by leaving these types of documents in plain view in your vehicle, you are making yourself a soft target for both the criminal and the terrorist. This can put you, your family, your friends and our community at risk.

There is also an increased vulnerability to the community at large with the loss of government property and result of breach of information from stolen computers and other government automation devices, should they fall into the hands of the wrong person(s). This has an affect on individual and command mission readiness and the safety of the SETAF community.

The modus operandi for this crime includes two major factors, which have resulted in the increase in the reports of thefts within the community and surrounding areas.

(Right) WHAT was this person thinking?? NEVER leave your passport, gas coupons or other valuable items in your vehicle.

I am an American! Just look at my car!

The first factor is the ability to identify and target U.S. vehicles.

A picture says a thousand words, all of them about you and who you are. There is an ever growing trend in our community of cars being broken into, especially when they are located at off post quarters or downtown in unlighted areas. However, as a community we are not taking the correct operations security (OPSEC) measure to prevent these break ins.

So you own a large American car, that's okay. However, those stickers you have from Fort Bragg telling the world you are Airborne and the parking pass sticker in the center of your front window. Those are OPSEC indicators.

Are you a proud member of the Boy Scouts, Masons, or Infantry? That is fine; however telling the world through a bumper sticker may not be the best way to let everyone know. You are inadvertently telling a criminal that there is a good chance there might be something of worth in your vehicle to steal.

Secondly, private and government property is left out is plain sight and not secured properly within the vehicles. Do not EVER underestimate a criminal's desire and ability to obtain your belongings. A locked vehicle is no deterrence to the perpetrator(s), as once the vehicle is identified, the thief usually breaks a window to gain access. Once inside the vehicle, the thief usually grabs what is in plain



Bahr, USAG Vicenza Public Affairs)
1. ACU blouse. 2. Beret 3. Computer bag (even if it's empty, it will still draw the attention of a thief. 4. What's inside the compartment? Gas coupons and a passport. (Photos by Diana

sight or easily accessible.

The inconvenience of losing of these types of documents are too numerous to count.

In the case of a stolen passport, it could take a months replace, in the case of a stolen or lost ID card you need to visit the MP station, the ID card section and the IACS office.

Getting a replacement state side driver's license could be a totally different story depending on the state you are from! After the events of Sept. 11, 2001, many states

stopped renewing and/or replacing driver's licenses through the mail. This could mean you may have to fly back to the states and renew your driver's license.

Currently, there is no Army or USAREUR Regulation, which specifically prohibits the storing or safeguarding of private or government documents or equipment in government or privately owned vehicles.

But that doesn't excuse you from your OPSEC duties. Take a good look at and in your vehicle before retiring for the night and bring inside any items that could compromise your security – and that of your military community.



You can't help what vehicle you brought over from the states, but you can minimize drawing attention to your vehicle by removing stickers that clearly identify your vehicle as American-owned.

Safety tips for all seasons

Command Safety Office
Press Release

Staying alert and taking precautions both at home and on the road can help ensure your vacation is a safe and fun time for you and your loved ones.

✓ Do not discuss your travel plans in public places; only tell those who need to know that you will be away.

✓ Ensure, prior to departing, that all doors and windows are secure including the garage.

✓ Leave a light, radio, etc., on to make it appear that someone is home. Use an automatic timer if possible.

✓ Unplug or turn off telephone ringers if you don't have an answering machine.

✓ Unplug unnecessary electrical items.

✓ Ask a neighbor to keep an eye on your home and remove mail, newspapers, etc.

✓ Do not hide a spare key; leave one with a trusted neighbor.

✓ Use civilian addresses for tickets, luggage tags, reservations and other travel documents.

✓ Ensure your unit/ supervisor knows where you intend to be and how to get a hold of you.

✓ Report loss or theft of your military

ID or credit cards immediately.

✓ Never leave keys or other valuables unattended.

✓ Never leave your luggage unattended.

✓ Do not display or wear military IDs, stickers or unit logos or leave items of military equipment or clothing visible in your car. Avoid using your rank as part of your name.

✓ Keep a low profile, and be discreet in revealing your NATO and/or a military affiliation.

✓ Do not flash large sums of money, and do not carry documents, credit cards, or large sums of money that you do not need to have on your person.

✓ Dress like the natives. Don't stand out conspicuously by your dress or actions.

✓ Carry out a visual inspection of your vehicle, to include the undercarriage, before entering, when it has been left unattended.

✓ Avoid secluded areas, poorly lit streets and narrow alleys.

✓ Stay away from known “trouble spots.”

✓ Be wary of pickpockets, especially in crowded areas and at major tourist attractions.

Community Mail Room December hours

Community Mail Room office
Press Release

As a reminder, when you close your mail box, SPIN the dial to ensure your box locks! The CMR has found numerous boxes open during their inspections. This leaves you vulnerable to identity theft!

Monday-Friday: 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Dec. 2, 9 and 16: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Dec. 23: 3-7 p.m. *These late hours will allow CMR personnel to receive last-minute mail and put notices in mail boxes before closing time.*

Dec. 24 (Sunday): 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Dec. 25: Closed

Dec. 26-29: Regular hours

Dec. 30, 31 and Jan. 1: Closed

Expecting a package from Santa?

USAG Vicenza Directorate of Logistics
Press Release

To ensure you get your holiday packages without problems, inform folks who are sending packages from the states to follow these important steps:

1. **Do not place the word ITALY anywhere on the address of the box or on the customs form.**

Digital post office readers in the U.S. read parcel addresses from bottom up. Writing "Italy" in the address could cause your parcel to be routed through international mail, which may require you to pay importation taxes.

2. Avoid using commercial carriers whenever possible. Unlike U.S. postal service, commercial carriers such as FEDEX, DHL, UPS, etc., will deliver your parcel via an international route. This usually results in the receiver (you) having to pay import taxes.

3. Ensure the person sending the package understands the importance of the customs declaration.

This form can be filled out online, and save them time in the post office. The Web site is: webapps.usps.com/customsforms/welcome.jsp

Instructions for filling out the form:

1. Select APO/FPO VERSION (this is for mailing to military addresses)
2. Select either Form 2976 or Form 2976-A and click on "Complete form online."
3. Fill out the Sender and Addressee information. Once completed click "Continue"
4. Enter the Package Information (usually Gift or "other"). The weight is the total weight of the entire package. Remember that when adding items, make sure the total weight equals that which you placed in this box.
- NOTE:** Only commercial senders (not family or friends) fill out the HS Tariff number or country or origin.
5. Add a description of the item, its value, quantity and weight.
6. If you need to add another description do so now by clicking "add more items". If you have finished adding items click "add and continue."
7. Look over the summary review page to ensure all information is correct. When this has been verified as correct, click "Generate Form 2976" (or Form 2976 A)
8. Click on the PDF form link (directly under the words "Instructions")
9. Print form and place on the package.

Time for holiday mailing hours, tips

1st Platoon, 111th Postal Company
Press Release

Below is the holiday schedule for the Army Post office. Please note that these hours are not the same as the Community Mail Room.

Through Dec. 22, the Army Post office is open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. and open Saturdays from 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.

The APO is closed Nov. 23.

The deadlines for mailing packages back

to the United States so they will arrive prior to Christmas are:

First Class / Priority: Dec. 11

Express mail: Dec. 18

Stamps may be purchased at the Post Exchange, Shoppette, and the cash cage at the PX for your convenience.

The APO will open an express lane during holiday hours for money orders, stamps, express mail, and letter-size correspondence only.



A community member fills out the Customs declaration form at the Army Post Office. (Outlook file photo)

New Community Action Council format strives to share key information with community

USAG Vicenza Public Affairs Office
Press Release

The Community Action Council is changing venue and changing its focus.

"We want to take the opportunity to get more pertinent information out to the community," said Renee Citron, deputy to the Garrison Commander, USAG Vicenza. "This is a great forum for us to share important information and highlight community events. We want to encourage as many people as possible to attend."

The new format includes time for each directorate and key agency chiefs to highlight important information such as events, changes in hours of operations for facilities, changes in policy and more.

"We want to make this a one-stop-shop for key information the community needs to know," said Citron.

Even though the format is changing,

key parts of the CAC will still take place, such as volunteer recognition, addressing specific CAC issues and the open forum.

Not all CAC issues submitted will be addressed in the new CAC forum, but those submitting issues will receive personal responses from the agency directly.

Because of this new format, anonymous issues will no longer be accepted. Those submitting issues will need to supply contact information, such as a valid phone number and e-mail address.

If your issue is not addressed during the new CAC forum, you can find responses posted to the USAG Vicenza Web site at www.usag.vicenza.army.mil, where you can also submit an issue or search through past issues.

For any questions concerning the CAC, contact the Public Affairs Office at 634-6363.

Education fair is 'ACES' for information

Story and photo by Spc. Justin Nieto
SETAF Public Affairs

As part of the Army Continuing Education System's observation of American Education Week, the Ederle Library played host to the USAG Vicenza Education Fair Wednesday.

The fair featured representatives from Central Texas College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, University of Maryland University College, University of Oklahoma and the University of Phoenix to provide information to potential future students.

"We are celebrating Education Week and we think this is great for people here, as they have a chance to see what opportunities are here to pursue a higher education," said Chris Pittman, Education

Services officer for the Education Center.

"It's good because we have all kinds of programs for people throughout the Education Center to help them in attaining this goal of a better education," continued Pittman.

"This is really good that it is centralized and there are a lot of options for the troops," said Chaplain (Capt.) Guy McBride, 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team, as he browsed through some of the exhibits. "Opportunities for our guys to get a better education is critical because of the tasks we are asking of them now. It's more and more demanding with a high-tech battlefield."

"These programs are great because no matter where a Soldier is, they can maintain and then improve their level of education," he said.



A Soldier looks over flyers at the Education Center fair held Wednesday in the Caserma Ederle Library.

Meningococcal shot required for students

U.S. Army Health Clinic Vicenza
Press Release

A new requirement from the European Regional Medical Command is for children 11-18 years of age to receive Menactra, a new vaccine aimed at preventing meningococcal meningitis. The suspense date to get this accomplished is Dec. 22 .

Patients 11-18 years old can get their immunization daily, on a walk-in basis, during the following hours: Monday-Wednesday and Fridays from 8 a.m.-noon, and 1-3:30 p.m. Thursdays from 1-3:30 p.m.

The clinic is closed Nov. 23 and 24.

Direct questions to U.S. Army Health Clinic Immunization section at 634-6608, or 0444-71-6608 from off post.

Community Action Council

This forum is to discuss issues affecting the community.

If you have an issue you wish to submit, visit the USAG Vicenza Web site at www.usag.vicenza.army.mil and click on the Community Action Council link.

This link provides you the opportunity to review issues that have been previously submitted and responded to by post agencies.

There is also a form available for you to submit any new issue you would like addressed. If you have questions, call 634-5222 or 0444-71-5222 from off post.

The command encourages you to identify yourself when submitting a CAC issue in order to be able to answer your concern directly. The command also reminds the community that CAC issues submitted containing vulgar, derogatory or inflammatory language will not be addressed.

Childcare is offered during the CAC at \$4 per hour, per child, for children ages 6 weeks old through kindergarten from 8:45-11:15 a.m. Preregistration is required. Children will be cared for in the Child Development Center, bldg 395. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services Central Registration.

Call 634-7219 or stop by their location in the Davis Family Readiness Center.

NOTE: There is no CAC during December. The next CAC is Jan. 24.

Issue: My children and I frequent the Shoppette and it is inappropriate to display adult magazines where children can see them. Magazines the government considers pornographic are covered; however, the other magazines such as Maxim, are not.

Recommendations: Please cover the magazines or relocate the magazine stand to an area where children will not see it.

Response from AAFES: AAFES regulations require our stores to cover certain adult magazines which contain adult material.

The current planogram in our Shoppette is designed by AAFES corporate office, but does allow for some deviation.

We will relocate the magazines in question, so that they are not as visible in the front row of the displayer. The relocation of the adult magazines also involved the movement of the actual fixtures to a location that is no longer on the main traffic aisle and no longer visible to customers shopping in the main aisle of the Shoppette.

There will be no CAC in December. The next CAC will be Jan. 24 at 10 a.m. in Club Veneto.

Holiday hours for MWR facilities

Directorate of MWR
Press Release

Fitness Centers will be closed Nov. 23, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Hours for Dec. 24 and 31 are 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Ederle Library will be closed Nov. 23, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Hours for Dec. 24 and 31 will be 11 a.m.- 6 p.m.

Outdoor Recreation will be closed Nov. 23, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Hours for Dec. 24 and 31 are noon- 6 p.m.

Arts & Crafts center is closed Nov. 23, Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1

Auto Skills center is closed Nov. 23, Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1

MWR motor pool is closed Nov. 23, Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1

Soldiers’ Theatre is closed Nov. 23, Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1

BOSS is closed Nov. 23, Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1

ITR is closed Nov. 23, Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1

Ederle Inn is open, but will have limited services Nov. 23, Dec. 24 and 31, but no service Dec. 25 or Jan. 1.

Club Veneto will be OPEN Nov. 23 from 3 p.m.-2 a.m.; Dec. 24 and 25 and Jan. 1 from 5 p.m.-midnight. Special New Year’s Eve celebration is set for 8 p.m.-4 a.m.

Ederle Lanes is closed Nov. 23, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Hours for Dec. 24 and 31 are 3:30-7 p.m.

Army Community Service office is closed Nov. 23, Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1. The Communication Center will be open from 9 a.m.-midnight via Staff Duty.

Child Development Center (Bldg 395) is closed Nov. 23, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Hours for Nov. 24 and Dec. 26 are 6 a.m.-6 p.m.

Child Development Center (Bldg 398) Nov. 23, 24, Dec. 25, 26 and Jan. 1. Children from bldg 398 who need care Nov. 24 and/or Dec. 26 will be cared for in CDC bldg 395 on those days.

Child and Youth Services office is closed Nov. 23, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. The CYS office will be open Nov. 24 and Dec. 26 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

CYS Central Registration office is closed Nov. 23, 24, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. The office will be open Dec. 26 from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

School Age Services is closed Nov. 23, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. SAS is open Nov. 24 and Dec. 26 from 6 a.m.-6 p.m.

Villaggio Youth Services is closed Nov. 23, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. YS is open Nov. 24 and Dec. 26 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Teen Center is closed Nov. 23, 24, Dec.25-Jan. 5.

Note: The Middle School and Teen Center will combine operations at the Middle School Center in Villaggio Nov. 24 and from Dec.26-Jan. 5.

CYS Sports office is closed Nov. 23, Dec. 25, 26 and Jan. 1. CYS Sports office is open Nov. 24 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Family Child Care office is closed Nov. 23, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. FCC is open Nov. 24 and Dec. 26 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Financial Management Division office is closed Nov. 23, Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1.

Utilities Tax Exemption Program office is closed Nov. 23, Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1.

MWR Marketing is closed Nov. 23, Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1.

Community Recreation Division office will be closed Nov. 23, Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1.

NAF Contracting office is closed Nov. 23, Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1.

Open season for health benefits

Civilian Personnel Advisory Center
Press Release

The 2006 Federal Employees Health Benefits program open season for U.S. Appropriated Fund employees will be held Nov. 13-Dec. 11.

There are three separate programs that will participate in this year’s open season: the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, the Web site is: www.opm.gov/insure/health); the Federal FSA Program, the Web site is: www.FSAFEDS.com, and the new Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program, the Web site is: www.opm.gov/insure/dentalvision.

A new Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) is available to eligible federal employees, retirees, and their eligible family members on an enrollee-pay-all basis.

This new program allows dental and vision insurance to be purchased on a group basis, which means competitive premiums and no pre-existing condition limitations.

Premiums for enrolled federal employees will be withheld from salary on a pre-tax basis. Employees must be eligible for the FEHB Program in order to be eligible to enroll in FEDVIP.

It does not matter if they are actually enrolled in FEHB-eligibility is the key. Annuitants are eligible to enroll in FEDVIP no matter what their FEHB status is.

Open season for enrollment is Nov. 13-Dec. 11.

The Outlook

Nov. 21, 2006 Vol. 39, Issue 46

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The Outlook is an unofficial publication authorized and provided by AR 360-1.

All editorial content of *The Outlook* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza Public Affairs Office in building 3 on Caserma Ederle in Vicenza, Italy. Telephone

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The Outlook is published weekly by the USAG Vicenza PAO, Unit 31401, Box 10, APO AE 09630. It is printed by Centro Stampa Editoriale SRL, Grisignano (VI) 0444-414-303.

Editorial publication is an authorized section for members of the U.S. Army overseas. Contents of *The Outlook* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, Installation Management Agency-Europe, U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza or the U.S. Army Southern European Task Force.

Submissions: Send all submission for publication to editor@setaf.army.mil. Submissions should be made via e-mail and must be received by Wednesday at noon for the following week's publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for style, brevity and clarity. Circulation is 2,500.

Parent2Parent offers help for challenges faced by military families

By Christine Weld
Outlook Volunteer

Children might not come with instruction manuals, but there is help out there for parents in the Caserma Ederle community.

Parent 2 Parent serves to offer support to parents and students in Vicenza, particularly in regard to the specific challenges that military families face.

The Vicenza Parent2Parent program is run by four woman: Eleonora Grauer-Gamet, Fran Hall, Sandy Schoenberg and Mary Williams, all of whom work to help families advocate for their children.

“We hope to empower parents and children to make informed decisions about their futures,” Schoenberg said.

Sponsored by the Military Child Education Coalition, Parent2Parent works to provide parents with the tools and skills to help their children get the most out of their education.

“Our goal is to help parents become the best advocates for their children. This is the perfect vehicle for parents to get involved,” said Fran Hall. Programs offered by Parent2Parent are based on research studies that specifically addressed the unique challenges military children face.

One of the most visible ways Parent2Parent serves parents and students is through free workshops offered several times each month at the schools.

“The workshops cover a wide range of topics,” Williams said, adding that Parent2Parent serves students of all ages.

Workshops offered include preparing children for kindergarten, nurturing a love of reading, staying connected while deployed and preparing for college.

Arrangements can also be made to conduct workshops for Family Readiness Groups, church groups, home-schoolers and other organizations. The group also gears offerings to meet individual needs. Members can meet one-on-one with parents and students to address specific concerns.

Parents are encouraged to share ideas for future Parent2Parent. Ideally, the program is an exchange of ideas among parents, students, the military and educators.

A major focus of Parent2Parent is to help families plan for transitions in and out of the Vicenza community.

“We needed something in place to help parents and students transition in and out of our community,” said Williams. “When moving to a new installation, many requirements vary, and addressing all the necessary pieces can be daunting. Parent2Parent works to make the transition smoother.

“You need every resource when you’re in transition,” added Hall.

One example is the need to have information on immunization requirements. These vary by state, and Parent2Parent can help find out what is needed, so parents can ensure all immunizations are up to date.

The group can also help construct a portfolio of the student’s educational experiences that they can carry with them to a new school. This holistic picture covers academics, extracurricular activities, athletics, standardized testing and other academic concerns. Having such information well organized can help students adjust to a new school.

For younger students, Parent2Parent also organizes ‘Tell Me a Story,’ a family event held several times each year.

The next event is set for Dec. 9 in the VHS gym from 3-5 p.m. The featured book is *Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot* by Margot Theis Raven, and special guest readers from the community will participate.

The day will include family activities and discussion groups with facilitators. Participants will receive a free copy of the featured book, donated by Global Federal Credit Union.

For more information on Parent2Parent and the resources they offer, call 348-079-55480 or e-mail Parent2Parent@setaf.army.mil.



Children, such as these attending Vicenza Elementary School, and their parents can benefit from free workshops offered by Vicenza’s Parent2Parent program. Workshops on topics such as preparing children for kindergarten, nurturing a love of reading, staying connected while deployed and preparing for college. (Outlook file photo)

This ain't your Grandpa's VFW!

Story and photos by Diana Bahr
USAG Vicenza Public Affairs

Mention the letters V-F-W to many people and it conjures up an image of gray-haired old men wearing white shirts in hats selling poppies in November, or of these same old men hanging out at a lodge playing bingo or holding fish-frys.

That was the VFW of the past, emphasized Gary Kurpius, commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, to attendees at a banquet held in Vicenza Oct. 23. Kurpius and the assistant adjutant, Robert Wallace, were on a world tour promoting the VFW to potential members, and updating established members on their vision of a more modern organization.

"More than half of our 2.2 million servicemen and women are eligible to join the VFW by virtue of their service in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere," said Kurpius. "But that number pales in comparison to the 16 million veterans who are also eligible to join us...that's more than 65 percent of America's living veteran population."

So why aren't eligible members signing on? Kurpius thinks he knows the answer—and is looking for way to encourage membership.

"The answer, unfortunately, is because some of us are stuck in the 1960s or '70s," he

said. "Membership drives everything we do, but we won't get the younger generation—or even an older generation—to join us if we don't recognize and adapt to the changing world around us. There has to be something more attractive about the VFW than just the bar. There has to be something that the VFW can provide to the community that makes people want to join up with us."

Some of the ideas to lure new members Kurpius has come up with are definitely innovative for the VFW—fitness centers, daycare facilities—and banning smoking!

"I know many VFW members and spouses who will not attend Post meetings or events because of the smoke. I have read many articles about the VFW being the last building in town where indoor smoking is still permitted...and some members quoted in the newspaper are celebrating as if they just won a great battle against government and social interference," he continued. "This is a sad commentary that, unfortunately, paints all of us with the same brush. American society and the VFW



Members of Vicenza VFW Post 8862 discuss post business during their monthly November meeting. The post meets the second Thursday of the month at the Italian retiree Center, La Rondine, about a five-minute drive from Caserma Ederle.

National Office have changed with the times...and so must the rest of our membership.

"We are a service organization first and foremost, and our future rests with attracting new members who want to believe that the VFW is an organization that regards change as recognition of the future and not a criticism of the past," he said.

Still, many Soldiers don't realize what the VFW actually does on behalf of its membership.

Our most important mission is to provide personal assistance to veterans to secure government benefits and entitlements, according to Kurpius. We work alongside the Veterans Administration, lending a strong voice and leadership to ensure that the needs and concerns of veterans are heard, he said.

Another benefit for VFW members is the

college scholarship offered through the Voice of Democracy Audio Essay contest.

This 60-year-old contest offers more than \$2.2 million in scholarships and incentives provided by VFW posts and departments. The contest culminates with 54 department winners, each of whom receives a college scholarship, and has the opportunity for the national first place award of a \$30,000 scholarship.

On a more local level, the Vicenza VFW Post 8862 offers support to single Soldiers and families with donations of time and money, said post president, Michael Tougaw. Tougaw said that he joined the post to continue serving Soldier and families after he retired from the military. He decided to become an officer in the post because he wanted to help affect change and bring in a younger generation.

"We don't have a big problem getting Soldiers to join the VFW," he said, noting

that the Vicenza post has more than 1,000 members, with about 74 percent under age 35. "We're looking at sponsoring events with BOSS and other organizations to get the word out."

The Vicenza post uses the monies donated from their annual Buddy Poppy Drive to purchase wreaths for Veteran's Day events and Soldier memorial services,

Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs and events, scholarships for Vicenza High School students, food baskets for deserving families and more.

For details about VFW Post 8862, their events and programs, contact post commander, Michael A. Tougaw at 333-695-4962.

"Membership drives everything we do, but we won't get the younger generation—or even an older generation—to join us if we don't recognize and adapt to the changing world around us."

—Gary Kurpius
Commander-in-Chief
Veterans of Foreign Wars



Gary Kurpius, commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, speaks to attendees at a banquet held in Vicenza Oct. 23, at right is Tom Buffington, past Post 8862 commander.



1st, 503d Soldiers train for Expert Infantry Badge

Left: Pvt. Brandon McIlwayne, Attack Company, 1st Brigade, 503 Infantry (Airborne), 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team, races to the finish line to complete the 12-mile road march portion of the Expert Infantry Badge. Of the 82 Soldiers from Charlie and Attack Companies who began the run, 66 finished in the time allowed. Right: Staff Sgt. Phillip Manuma, squad leader in Charlie Company, 1-503d Inf (Abn), performs a packing list check for Sgt. Matthew Matlock, Charlie Company, 1-503d Inf (Abn). As part of the EIB task, the Soldiers were required to carry full rucks and have a packing check performed at the end. The Soldiers have already completed some of the tasks required to earn an EIB, such as the Physical Fitness test and weapons qualification. Below: Three tired Charlie Company Soldiers trudge across the North 40 on Caserma Ederle toward their barracks after completing the 12-mile march. The actual testing phase for the Soldiers to earn the Expert Infantry Badge will be held in mid-December. (Photos by Diana Bahr, USAG Vicenza Public Affairs)



JROTC honor veterans with ceremony at Florence American cemetery

Submitted by the 10th JROTC Battalion
Vicenza High School
Special to the Outlook

The 10th Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, Vicenza High School Cadet Battalion,



Above: The 10th JROTC Cadet Battalion Color Guard stands at attention during the Veteran's Day ceremony held at the Florence American Cemetery and Memorial. (Photos by Cadet Cpl. Janaya Dash)

conducted a study trip to Livorno, Camp Darby, Pisa and the Florence American Military Cemetery Nov. 10 and 11.

One goal of the trip was to participate in the Veterans' Day memorial service at the Florence American Cemetery and Memorial.

After the cadets arrived the afternoon of Nov. 10, they began practicing for the ceremony. Once the cadet chain of command and the JROTC instructor group was satisfied with the level of performance, the cadets returned to Livorno for dinner.

But there wasn't time to play, as cadets busied themselves with preparing their uniforms for the next day. The cadet chain of command had to inspect each individual's uniform to ensure it was ready for next day's big event.

Following a quick breakfast and a final uniform inspection, the cadets climbed onboard the bus for the trip to the cemetery.

John Luncheon, director of the Florence American Cemetery and Memorial, met the cadets and helped finalize the ceremony.



Participating cadets pose with John Luncheon, Florence American Cemetery and Memorial director (second from left), and assistant superintendent, Angelo Munsel (second from right).

After several more rehearsals, the cadets performed flawlessly for the crowd gathered for the 11 a.m. memorial service.

Cadet Sgt. 1st Class Cameron Garrett commanded the Honor Guard and Cadet Command Sgt. Maj. Reagan Womble commanded the Color Guard.

Cadet 1st Lt. David Sherrick, Executive Officer of the Cadet Battalion, and Sgt. 1st Class (retired) Gerard Belleville presented wreaths during the ceremony.

Members from Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8862 and the 34th Infantry Division

Association and other groups provided memorial wreaths for the ceremony.

The Cadet Battalion commander, Cadet Capt. Melvin Williams, read President George W. Bush's Veterans' Day message to the formation and visitors.

Some 50 persons attended the ceremony, including students from the American University of Rome.

One visitor from Arkansas, who arrived in Italy Nov. 8 to visit the grave of his brother-in-law, heard about the memorial ceremony and decided to stay on and attend.

He was quite moved by the ceremony and complimented the cadets' role and contribution saying it was worth staying extra days in town to watch the memorial service.

It was the finest memorial service he had seen in years, and by far the best conducted by any JROTC, said Luncheon.

Also participating in the ceremony were: Cadet Sgt. 1st Class Jesalyn Draper, Cadet Sgt. Michael Erickson, Cadet Sgt. Stephen King, Cadet Cpl. Janaya Dash, Cadet Pfc. Andrew Woodard and Cadets Crystal Buhler, Allyson Holland, Jessica Holland and Tyler

Perry. Serving as chaperones and participating in the ceremony were Staff Sgt. Samuel Miller, Rose Holland and Lisa Stribling.



Left: Cadet Battalion commander, Capt. Melvin Williams, reads Pres. George W. Bush's Veteran's Day message to a crowd gathered at the cemetery.

Native American Heritage Month events



Chere Harper (right), special Story Hour guest, reads stories related to Native American Heritage to children and their parents at the post library Nov. 14. During the event, she included some tales from Cherokee oral traditions, such as "The First Strawberries" retold by Joseph Bruchac and illustrated by Anna Vojtech. The children enjoyed the colorful images and the significance of the story, which ends "To this day, when Cherokee people eat strawberries, they are reminded to always be kind to each other; to remember that friendship and respect are as sweet as the taste of ripe, red berries." The library offers the Story Hour program every Tuesday at 11:15 a.m. There is no registration required. Contact the post library at 634-7291 for details. (Photo by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff)



Left: A girl shows her brother her napkin ring she designed with the Native American symbols they learned during the activity held in Davis Hall Family Readiness Center Nov. 8. The children prepared their creations for a Thanksgiving meal. At the end of the event coordinated by ACS Family Advocacy Program, Darya said she enjoyed this activity and especially enjoyed listening to the Cherokee story narrated by Chere Harper. Harper, who is part Cherokee and part Comanche, volunteered at the event. The ACS Family Advocacy Program invites families to a free monthly Arts and Crafts event. This is an excellent opportunity for parents and children, ages 3 – 12 years, to enjoy time together while learning a craft activity. The event is held monthly at DFRC. For more information about upcoming programs, or about Family Advocacy Programs, call 634-6202 or 634-7500. (Photo by Laura Kreider, Outlook Staff)

Local Prince Hall Association donates Xbox, games to Vicenza Teen Center



On Nov. 9, the Vicenza Area Prince Hall Association (VAPHA) donated an Xbox 360, along with games, to the Youth Services Teen Center. VAPHA consists of several organizations that are responsible for the donation. They are: Dulkaada Temple, Dulkaada Court, Pride of the Mediterranean Consistory, Peace and Unity Assembly, Mary McLeod Bethune Guild, Howard Z. Plummer Lodge, Zillah Military Lodge and Esther's Grace OES. "VAPHA appreciates the opportunity to help the Youth Center in anyway possible," said Heather Schantz, USAG Vicenza YS director. "They know the center will continue to provide a safe Alcohol and Drug free environment with constructive activities and a caring stay." At the presentation were (second row from left): Local Prince Hall Lodge Zillah # 167 secretary, Spc. Demetrius Bobbett, (left), assistant vice president Staff Sgt. Terry Lawrence (third from left); president William Barber (center); and the VAPHA president Steve Tavares (third from right); and Teen Center director Michael Morris. (Photo by Laura Kreider, Outlook staff)

Out & About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

Markets

Vicenza: Find vendors under the arches of *Piazza dei Signori* downtown through Nov. 23 selling Christmas items, cakes, floral arrangements organized by the association for children with Down Syndrome.

All proceedings go to the parents of the children.

The markets open each day from 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Nov. 23 until 1 p.m.

In *Piazza XXVI April*, the main square of the town of Bussolengo, located of Verona, the Christmas market is already underway.

It's open weekdays 2:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; weekends 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. until Dec. 24.



Area mall hours

The Palladio shopping mall, located near Villaggio, is open Nov. 26 from 9:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

The Piramidi mall in Torri is open Nov. 26 from 10 a.m.- 8:30 p.m.

Exhibitions

In Verona an exhibition for collectors is taking place Nov. 24-26 in the exhibition grounds.

Called '*VeronaFil*,' this 106th Annual exhibition offers to opportunity to buy and/or exchange stamps, postcards, franked envelopes, telephone cards, coins or medals.

The exhibit is open Nov. 24 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Nov 25 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Nov. 26 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m..

Classified Ads

Editor's Note: Caserma Ederle community members may place free classified ads (**not personal or personal services ads**) on the MWR Web site: www.vicenzamwr.com/marketplace.

Every Tuesday at noon, *The Outlook* editor goes to the MWR Web site and copies the ads. These ads will appear in *The Outlook* one week later.

The Outlook and Directorate of MWR are not responsible for any errors in the advertisement, so it's up to the seller to ensure the correct price, e-mail, etc. is listed.

Photos accompanying the advertisement will not appear in *The Outlook*.

Because *The Outlook* has limited amount of space available, editing of the classified ad may take place.

The Outlook does not take classifieds, sellers must place ads at the Web site www.vicenzamwr.com.

For more information or contact information on an item you see listed here, visit the MWR Web site: www.vicenzamwr.com/marketplace.

AFN Decoder: U s e d . \$ 2 0 0
NOTE: AFRTS/AFN decoders must be sold only to another authorized

Entrance is free.

To reach the exhibition grounds leave the autostrada at Verona sud and follow signs for the 'Fiera.'

Dec. 1-3, the town of Rovigo, offers a wide range of objects and tips for the festive season at their annual Christmas fair.

Find gift ideas, traditional foods and creative new ways to decorate the tree.

There will also be a Christmas cradles exhibition by local artisans, open each day 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Friday 4-9 p.m. Entrance fee is 3 euro.

Nativity scenes

The appearance of the 70-meter-tall, steel comet near the Verona Arena signals the official return of the Christmas season and the 23rd international show of Nativity scenes.

The Nativity scenes, sponsored by UNESCO, is open Dec. 2 - Jan. 21, and visitors will be able to see some 400 nativity scenes from around the world – all of which are set against a backdrop of music and lights.

This year's edition will bring the total number of Nativity scenes shown at the Arena over the years to more than 6,000.

Countries represented in the nativity display include France, Spain, Slovenia, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Portugal, Peru' and Japan.

The show is divided into four main sections – sculptures of angels and the three wise men, the art and tradition of the Nativity scene in Veneto, and the Spanish dioramas.

The exhibit is open daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. including holidays.

Entrance fee is 7 euro for adults, children 6-12 years of age and over 60s pay 6 euro

Dress warmly as inside the Arena there is little or no heating.

In the Vicenza Saveriani Missionary Institute, 119 Viale Trento, find 500 nativity scenes from 60 countries, including Asia, Africa and South America on display.

The exhibit is open Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-noon, and on the weekend from 3-7 p.m.

Proceeds go toward building construction in Bangladesh.

Madonna della Salute

Today, Venice celebrates a religious festival: "*La Madonna della Salute*."

This event remembers that irreplaceable possession – good health.

It recalls one of the most virulent plague epidemics in the area from 1630-31 and how the Doge, when all remedies seemed to no avail, made a solemn vow to build a church dedicated to the Virgin.

When the plague diminished, construction began on the church that is on a little island on the Grand Canal.

Every year, beginning in the morning an unending procession of people walk over a "votive" bridge, made of boats, which links the Grand Canal to the little island.

As is the case of other religious feast-days, a fair very soon sprang up next to the church selling fritters, cotton candy and seasonal candy, but more importantly, candles to take into the church.

Concerts

The following groups will be performing in Milan:

Dec. 3, 4: Iron Maiden

Dec. 6, 10: Bill Wyman & the Rhythm Kings

Jan. 29: 'Therion+Grave Digger+Sabatón

Feb. 13: Hammerfall

Now Showing

Caserma Ederle Theater

Nov. 21	CLOSED	
Nov. 22	Crank (R)	7 p.m.
Nov. 23	CLOSED for Thanksgiving	7 p.m.
Nov. 24	Gridiron Gang (PG13)	7 p.m.
	Running with Scissors (R)	10 p.m.
Nov. 25	Gridiron Gang (PG13)	4 p.m.
	Running with Scissors (R)	7p.m.
Nov. 26	The Covenant (PG13)	4 p.m.
	The Black Dahlia (R)	7 p.m.
Nov. 27	CLOSED	
Nov. 28	CLOSED	

Camp Darby Theater

Nov. 23	Idlewild (R)	6 p.m.
Nov. 24	Flags of Our Fathers (R)	6 p.m.
Nov. 25	Accepted (PG13)	6 p.m.
Nov. 26	Open Season (PG)	2 p.m.

Movie Synopsis

GRIDIRON GANG - *Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Kevin Dunn.*
The uplifting story of detention camp probation officer Sean Porter, who creates a high-school-level football team from a ragtag group of dangerous teenage inmates as a means to teach them self-respect and social responsibility. He is joined in this experiment by co-worker, Malcolm Moore. But Porter must first overcome almost universal resistance from the powers that be – his skeptical bosses and coaches at rival high schools who don't want their players mixing it up with convicted criminals on the football field.

THE BLACK DAHLIA - *Josh Hartnett, Scarlett Johansson.*
Elizabeth "Betty" Short, a 22-year-old aspiring actress from the East Coast who wore a delicate flower in her raven hair and was many things to many people – friend, sister, daughter, girlfriend and prostitute. On Jan. 15, 1947, she was discovered brutally slayed in a vacant lot near Leimert Park in downtown Los Angeles. Enter onto the scene two ex-pugilist police officers, Lee Blanchard and Dwight "Bucky" Bleichert. The new partners' first homicide case starts with a call from their supervisor to investigate the slaying Betty Short, just as they leave a deadly shootout.

THE COVENANT - *Steven Strait, Sebastian Stan.*
In 1692 in Massachusetts, five families with untold power formed a covenant of silence. One family, lusting for more, was banished; their bloodline disappearing without a trace – until now. Four young students at the elite Spencer Academy are bound by their sacred ancestry. As descendants of the original families, the boys have all been born with special powers.

RUNNING WITH SCISSORS - *Annette Bening, Brian Cox.*
Sharply observant 6-year-old, Augusten, finds himself trapped between his troubled parents: his mother Deidre, an unpublished and unstable confessional poet with delusions of being hugely famous; and his father Norman, an alcoholic math professor who long ago gave up trying to solve the riddle of his wife's problems or his son's precocious behavior. When the Burroughs' marriage goes to pieces, Deidre signs up for therapy with the eccentric Dr. Finch, a highly unconventional shrink who takes the family under his wing.

Admission: Adults age 12 and over \$4, children \$2.
The Ederle Theatre box office opens one hour prior to show time.

individual.

Kitty Sitter Needed: I have two sweet, affectionate felines that will need someone to come in and check on them from Nov. 17 – 27.

94 SAAB 9000 CS Turbo: 4 door, \$2,000 OBO, great car

1993 Honda Civic: 2-door, hatchback. Euro specs. \$2,700 OBO

1998 Honda Accord LX V-6: 2 Dr Coupe , loaded \$8,000.

2000 Alfa Romeo 166: Immaculate condition. GPS. 6,800 Euro.

Furniture: 2 couch chairs, \$35 and \$85. Large, walnut finish entertainment center..

1994 Civic: \$3,000 Euro spec with 196km

Antique-style Ice Cream maker: \$35. Never used

Microwave: \$30.

Toaster Oven: 220V. \$10

Small transformer: \$15

Large transformer: \$25.

'86 Fiat Uno: 4-speed manual, fair condition \$400.

'91 Citroen BX: 5-speed, new \$200.

Easy Set Pool w/filter: Good condition. \$20

Tae kwon do gear: Good condition. \$100.

Storage Shed: Metal. \$175

Free dog: Female Malinois, 3 years old. Well-trained.

Transformer: 1600w, \$40

Household goods wanted: Furniture, TV, bikes, etc.

Small car wanted: Looking for a very old small car. Max 800 euro. European spec.

1994 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo for sale.

Oak coffee table for sale.

Oak side tables (2).

Sony Play Station 2: Used, no controllers, \$60

Sony Mini-disk Player: L i k e new, 9 mini-disks included. \$75.

Bamboo Hall Tree: Black w/ glass shelf, mirror, 4 hooks and bottom shelf. \$25.

Love Seat: W/ washable natural duck cover. \$80

Poster bed: Fits double or queen size mattress. \$100

Antique rope bed: Converted to use with double mattress. Mattress included \$150

Ski clothes needed: For 15 year old boy - size men's med or large 11 year old - youth XL

Queen Down Comforter: \$20.

Southwest Watercolor Print: By Carol Grigg. \$50.

Combat boots: Altama Desert Ripple Sole - Size 7.5W - \$80 OBO

Museum & Markets in Bassano



Above: View of the balcony above the museum.

Right: A bust and historical documents are on display in the first room of the two-floor museum.

Below: View of the vaulted rooms where historical documents, photos and items about the Alpine Corps and the events which occurred during the wars are on display.

Far right: Some Italian canteens.



A 1936 model of Alpini helmet on view in the main room.

Right: Sign above the entrance of the *Museo degli Alpini*, which is located in two floors under the *taverna*, a typical bar on the western side of the *Ponte Vecchio*, the historical bridge also called *Ponte degli Alpini*. The Alpini is an Italian Army unit, which helped to reconstruct the historical bridge bombed in 1945 at the end of WWII. A plaque on the wall at the entrance of the bridge also commemorates the date of its reconstruction in 1948.



Story and photos by Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

A place to visit anytime, *Bassano del Grappa* is a town about 35 kilometers northeast of *Vicenza*. It's situated on the *Brenta River* with *Monte Grappa* in the background. Throughout the changing of the seasons, it offers its visitors a variety of events, markets, gastronomic specialties and history to satisfy multiple interests.

Amongst its museums placed in the heart of the city, which include the Civic Museum, located in a 13th century Franciscan convent, a Ceramic Museum, not far from the river, and even a Grappa Museum, which displays old equipment for distilling the *grappa* - the local liqueur - another unique museum also finds its site on the western side of the *Ponte Vecchio*, the wooden covered historical bridge, built the first time in the 12th century and rebuilt several times throughout the centuries.

(The bridge was rebuilt several times, most of them because it was destroyed by the *Brentana*, the so-called strong *Brenta* flood.)

The museum is called *Museo degli Alpini*, where *Alpini* stands for a special unit of the Italian Army, which was established on Oct. 15, 1872 after the approval of a royal decree. After the war fought between Italy and Austria in 1866, a captain understood the importance of creating a specialized army within the King's troops, a sort of local corps who would focus especially on the defense of the just acquired borderlands located in the mountainous territory of the two regions of *Veneto* and *Trentino*.

The Alpini had an important role in the history of the town of *Bassano*, which was a war zone during the *Grande Guerra*, World War I, and also in WWII. After what the city experienced throughout the wars, the names of the city and the bridge itself changed. In fact, "*del Grappa*" the mountain where the Soldiers fought, was added to the name of the city and the bridge became "*degli Alpini*" because in 1948 they helped to rebuild it along with other groups on the same place and the way it was before being bombed by the German troops in retreat. Because of this close relationship between the Alpini corps and the bridge, the *Museo degli Alpini* was created by ANA (Associazione Nazionale Alpini), the local section of the Alpini Association.



The museum's distinctive entrance is from the *Taverna*, tavern, whose flowered balcony overhangs the river and it is located in a below-ground two-floor setting whose windows look toward the trapezoid wooden piers of the bridge. Several historical documents, photos and items referred to the Alpine corps and the events that occurred during the wars are on display. In the lower floor there is also the reconstruction of a *trincea*, or trench. It is open daily - except on Mondays - from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Entrance is free, but donations are accepted for postcards that are displayed near the guest registry.

Below: A craftsman weaves the seat on a chair during a day of the market in downtown Bassano.

Right: A stand of flowers during a Saturday market.



Right: Market in Piazza Liberta'.



Bassano also holds a market, which takes place twice a week, on Thursday and Saturday. Starting Nov. 25,

Bassano will open its annual Christmas market in two of the main squares, *Piazza Garibaldi* and *Piazzotto Montevicchio*. (picture below)

